

# SEP Report

## 1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	Science / Chemistry
Host University	University of Liverpool
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange	AY16/17 Semester 2

## 2. Study at Host University

Please provide information on the academics at your host university:

- Studying or learning culture at your host university. How were classes conducted?
- What did you like most or dislike most about the academics at your host University?
- Advice on module registration and module mapping

Classes were conducted in a similar style as in NUS. We had lectures, tutorials and seminars although there were less contact hours as compared to NUS. For a 15 ECTS Credits Chemistry module, there was about 3 hours of lectures a week and 1 hour of tutorials. For a 7.5 ECTS Credits Chemistry modules, there was about 2 hours of lectures a week without tutorials. A one hour seminar and one hour lecture was the weekly commitment for a 15 ECTS Credit Sociology module.

The key difference was the way most of the modules were assessed. There is a huge weightage of about 80-90% of the final grade placed upon the final exams. The examinations are usually between 1.5-3 hours long depending on the number of ECTS credit given to the module. For the Sociology module that I took, 100% of the grade was placed upon a take home 2,500 word essay. The other 10-20% of the final grade is usually assessed by take home tutorials or assignments that is given over the 3 week Easter Break.

In NUS, there are usually 1 or 2 continual assessments during the semesters to gauge your understanding of the content in the module. However, this was not the case in Liverpool and there were definitely less checkpoints for the students along the way and it is up to each student to be personally responsible and consistent in their own work to prevent falling behind come the final exams. However, this also meant that we could plan our own time and be flexible in the way we conduct our learning.

You should definitely plan ahead in terms of your module choices and be flexible in the kind of modules you plan to do. There are more modules available in Semester 1 and you might find yourself restricted in the kind of modules you can take if you go in Semester 2. There are more Medicinal Chemistry type of modules in Liverpool and it will be a good place to head to if you choose to specialize in the Medicinal area of Chemistry. Do get to know the administrator in charge of your department as they will be doing most of the module registration for you.

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Please list the courses that you took during SEP. (Please take note that the list of modules available to exchange students at the host university are subject to change. This table merely serves as reference.)

Host University			NUS Equivalent		
Module code	Course title	ECTS Credit	Module code	Course title	Modular credit
CHEM214	Metals and Metalloids of the p- and d- Blocks	15	CM 3212	Transition Metal Chemistry	4
CHEM038	Pharmacological Chemistry	15	CM 3991	Exchange Enrichment Module	4
CHEM248	An Introduction to Medicinal Chemistry	7.5	CM4273	Computational Drug Design	4
CHEM 338	Heterocyclic Chemistry and Drug Synthesis	7.5			
SOCI108	Controlling Crime – An Introduction	15	SC 2701	Sociology Exchange Module	4

## 2. Accommodation

**What kind of accommodation did you stay in during your exchange (eg. on campus / off campus)?**

**Would you recommend this accommodation to future outgoing students?**

**Do you have any other suggestions?**

I stayed on campus at this block of flats called Tudor Close. The University clusters most of the exchange students at this area so you will get to stay with students from all over the world. There is a common area where you are able to cook and hang out with your flatmates. Each student will get a personal room with a sink while you will share toilet and bathing facilities in the flat. Tudor Close is at the edge of the University and is about a 10-15 minutes walk away from the city centre and hence is convenient for most students. It is safe and an easy walk to the different faculties on campus.

This accommodation is a good choice as it enables you to interact with students all over the world. I had a great time having dinners with my flatmates where we would cook together and chat over food. Since most exchange students will be housed in the compound, it is also easy to get together with the other Singaporean students as well.

The accommodation is quite pricey and you will probably be able to get housing outside of the University at a more affordable price. However, you will probably offset the cost by paying for public transportation to get to the University.

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## 3. Activities during SEP

**Were there any activities organized by school/student group/external organizations at your host university which you would like to recommend to other students?**

If you are interested in travelling, you should always take note of trips organized by the Guild for students. They host quite a number of day trips to different parts of UK and you can go for a cheaper price if you stay on campus as well. There is another external organization called Vivatrips who does trips around UK as well and it was a fun and easy way to go for trips without doing much planning and even meet new people along the way.

There will usually be some sort of Freshers' Fair whether you are there in Sem 1 or 2 for you to get to know the various societies, clubs and sports that you can sign up for. There are various recreational sport clubs such as badminton on different days of the week for social players. I joined the Tabletop Society where you get to play board games with like minded enthusiasts once a week. It was great as you got to learn new games almost every week.

If you are looking for a church to attend during your time in Liverpool, I highly recommend Hope City Church. They meet in the city centre on Sundays and there are connect groups on weekdays for you to meet up with other university students as well.

## 4. Cost of Living

**Please provide an estimation of how much money you spent during your SEP?**

**Please list travel expenses separately.**

Exchange Rate @ £1 to S\$1.80

Accommodation: S\$5,000

Transport: S\$500

Food: S\$1,500

Mobile: S\$80

Laundry: S\$60

Leisure/Entertainment: S\$500

Travel: S\$2,000

Air Ticket: S\$1,400

Total: S\$11,000

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## 5. Challenges

**Did you face any challenging issues during your SEP stint? How did you overcome it/them?**

I think one of the more challenging issues was keeping in touch with people back in Singapore. Due to the time difference, it was never going to be easy but it was important to still update your family and friends. There was also the tension of maintaining too much contact and not being able to adapt fully into the culture of your host country.

I decided to fix a date and time each week to skype my family and my girlfriend and that was a good way to ensure that I maintain contact with people back at home.

## 6. Overall SEP Experience

**Please write one paragraph about your exchange experience and attach some photos that represent your exchange experience.**

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Liverpool and made good friends there that would last a lifetime. I felt that exchange helped me to become more independent. I cooked most of my meals and had to take care of my own health and personal needs. I learnt more about the culture of different countries through daily chats with my flatmates over dinner. We would eat together and share more about life in our own home countries. It was interesting to see things from the lenses of friends who grew up in very different conditions compared to me.

During the Easter Break, I took a solo trip to Cornwall in the Southern part of UK and it was an exciting time learning about myself while enjoying hikes along the coastline. I joined a local church in Liverpool and felt extremely welcomed by the locals there. The highlight was being able to travel to Sheffield for a conference with the friends I met in church. Although I was away from Singapore, I felt very much at home in the company of good friends that I met over the 5 months in Liverpool. It was a very bittersweet experience in the final few weeks when I had to say goodbye to my friends and promised to visit them sometime in the future.

## 7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

**Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.**

Be open- minded and willing to take on new challenges. It will definitely be easier for more extroverted people to make friends but if you persevere and be a bit more daring in making new friends it would be helpful for you. Set boundaries and expectations for yourself as well so that you know where to draw the line in activities that might not be good for you.